



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Required Report - public distribution

**Date:** 9/18/2007

**GAIN Report Number:** TH7126

## Thailand

### Agricultural Situation

#### Many Fruit Duties go to Zero Under Thai-Japan Trade Agreement

2007

**Approved by:**

Gary Meyer, Agricultural Counselor  
U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Maysa Kunasiriwat, Agricultural Specialist

---

**Report Highlights:**

The Japan Thai Economic Partnership Agreement (JTEPA), signed in April, takes effect in November 2007. As a part of the agreement, Thai import tariffs for Japanese fresh fruits will be eliminated immediately or phased out in 2009 or 2012.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Trade Report  
Bangkok [TH1]  
[TH]

## Executive Summary

The Japan Thai Economic Partnership Agreement (JTEPA), signed in April 2007, takes effect November 2007. As a part of the agreement, Thai import tariffs for Japanese fresh fruits, including apple, persimmon, peach and pear, will be eliminated immediately. In addition, tariffs on fresh melon and grape are scheduled to phase out to zero in 2009, and those for oranges, strawberries and cherries in 2012.

According to a report by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the United States and South Korea are seen as the major competitors in the Thai imported fresh fruit market mainly because of quality. JETRO anticipates Japan's fresh fruit exports to Thailand will increase 30-50 percent over the current level.

The total Thai market of imported fresh fruits was 134.5 million USD in 2006. China is Thailand's main supplier, accounting for 62 per cent of total imports in value in 2006, followed by the U.S. (15 percent) and Australia (5 percent), respectively. Thailand's Japanese fruit imports were US\$ 0.91 million.

Thailand Import Statistics							
UDG: Fresh Fruit, Group 23 (2007)							
Year To Date: January - December							
Partner Country	United States Dollars			% Share			% Change 2006/2005
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	
World	93,370,264	100,692,606	134,591,424	100.00	100.00	100.00	33.67
China	58,788,909	62,095,589	82,864,895	62.96	61.67	61.57	33.45
United States	15,022,839	18,177,488	19,616,057	16.09	18.05	14.57	7.91
Australia	4,170,884	5,642,238	7,156,042	4.47	5.60	5.32	26.83
Vietnam	1,571,420	2,470,975	6,540,399	1.68	2.45	4.86	164.69
South Africa	5,880,662	3,771,054	6,285,245	6.30	3.75	4.67	66.67
New Zealand	1,574,633	1,777,490	3,526,401	1.69	1.77	2.62	98.39
France	769,250	1,092,669	1,929,449	0.82	1.09	1.43	76.58
Chile	787,555	482,199	1,106,046	0.84	0.48	0.82	129.38
Laos	46,309	245,443	965,909	0.05	0.24	0.72	293.54
Japan	526,288	585,858	910,459	0.56	0.58	0.68	55.41
Korea South	851,575	764,228	799,684	0.91	0.76	0.59	4.64

Apples are the most popular item among Japanese fruits shipped to Thailand. Japanese apple imports have increased steadily over the previous 3 years (2004-2006).

Thailand Import Statistics							
Commodity: 080810, Apples, Fresh							
Year To Date: January – December							
Partner Country	United States Dollars			% Share			% Change 2006/2005
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	
World	50,429,232	50,516,251	60,082,908	100.00	100.00	100.00	18.94
China	38,629,385	36,592,776	42,866,348	76.60	72.44	71.35	17.14
United States	5,773,626	9,304,540	8,989,709	11.45	18.42	14.96	-3.38
South Africa	3,044,175	2,202,857	3,258,516	6.04	4.36	5.42	47.92
New Zealand	1,029,412	778,993	2,068,050	2.04	1.54	3.44	165.48
France	697,949	1,057,924	1,876,091	1.38	2.09	3.12	77.34
Japan	249,550	319,322	537,018	0.49	0.63	0.89	68.17

End of Report.